

Art Unit: ***

CLMPTO

10/038,278

03/12/04

RC

1-14 are canceled

15. (new) A covering apparatus for a can comprising:

a can cover having an upper surface, said can cover having wrinkles formed therein so as to extend thereacross and in generally parallel relationship to each other so as to prevent upward swelling of said can cover by an expansion of contents from the can, said can cover having an outer rim extending upwardly from said upper surface, said wrinkles being connected together in a radius direction across said upper surface ; and

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a stay-on tab attached to said upper surface by a support extending upwardly from said can cover, said can cover having a scoring means formed under one end of said stay-on tab, said scoring means for rupturing upon compressive contact by said one end of said stay-on tab, said one end of said stay-on tab being adapted to push downwardly on a portion of said can cover surrounded by said scoring means when another end of said stay-on tab is pulled upwardly, said score means defining a content take-out hole, said support being connected to a central portion of said stay-on tab, said central portion extending contiguously to said one end of said stay-on tab, said central portion having an edge spaced from said another end of said stay-on tab such that said another end can be pulled upwardly from said upper surface of said can cover while said central portion remains juxtaposed in close contact with said upper surface of said can cover, said another end of said stay-on tab being a planar member, each of said one end and said another end being inclined upwardly from said upper surface such that when one of the ends of said stay-on tab is pressed downwardly another end of said stay-on tab moves upwardly away from said upper surface of said can cover, said can cover being configured so as to be stackable upon an identical can cover, said support having an elliptical or polygonal cross-section so as to prevent said stay-on tab from being rotated; and

an auxiliary support protruding upwardly from said upper surface of said can cover, said auxiliary support positioned beside said support, said auxiliary support connected to said central portion of said stay-on tab, said auxiliary support passing through said central portion and protruding upwardly from said central portion, said auxiliary support having an upper end spread so as to form a head.